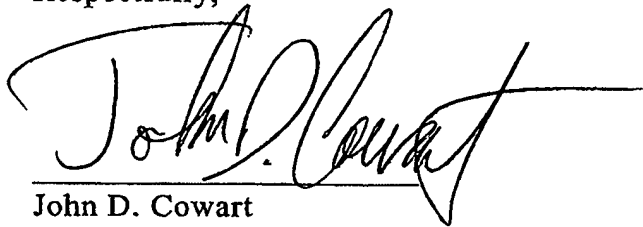


REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are pending in this application. All have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) in view of Applicant's own patent (USP 6,662,175 to Ghazal, *et al.*). Applicant has amended this application to claim priority from U.S. Application 09/850,765, from which USP 6,662,175 issued. This application was co-pending with the '765 application and shares at least one common inventor.

In view of this amendment, the 102(e) rejection in view of the '175 patent is no longer valid. Applicant therefore asks the Office to withdraw the rejection and allow all of the claims. Please apply any charges that might be due, excepting the issue fee but including fees for extensions of time, to deposit account 50-1673.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Cowart", written over a horizontal line.

John D. Cowart
Reg. No. 38,415

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